

Agroterrorism:

Vulnerabilities, Factors and Implications

Satellite Conference

Wednesday, August 24, 2005 • 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

1:00-2:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) • 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)

Agroterrorism implies the deliberate attack on a nation's food and agriculture system for ideological purposes. Food and agriculture are now identified as critical infrastructure vital to our national security. The U.S. food and fiber industry generates nearly \$1 trillion in revenue annually. Our efficiency in this sector is unsurpassed and serves as a stimulus for the rest of the nation's economy. For many years, we have successfully developed and protected this unique resource and capability. Until recently our primary concern has been natural or accidental introduction of disease causing agents into our food supply. Our system of federal, state and county inspection and control, although not perfect, has precluded or effectively managed such events. As a result, wholesome food has been widely available and public confidence in the government to protect it is high.

The agricultural and food economy is now international and extremely complex; the fortunes of nations are now intertwined. Furthermore, national and sub-national groups have indicated that they are willing to disrupt our way of life. No longer can vast oceans and friendly neighbors to the north and south be trusted to protect our resources and our economy. We are extremely vulnerable to severe economic disruption of the agricultural sector. A large-scale agricultural disaster, whether natural or intentional in origin, carries enormous economic, social and political effects in addition to threats to human health. We must consider a vast array of countermeasures, from physical security of our feedlots to building relationships of trust between scientists throughout the world. Dr. Franz will discuss the broad threat, our agricultural and food supply vulnerabilities, potential impacts on the system, considerations regarding national defense policy and the opportunities for veterinarians to reduce the impact of attack on our food and fiber supplies. Dr. Mattix will explore the factors involved in large-scale agricultural disasters and the implications of natural and intentional animal disease outbreaks.

Faculty:

David Franz, DVM, PhD
Director, National Agricultural Biosecurity Center
Kansas State University
Deputy Director

Center for Emergency Care & Disaster Preparedness
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Marc Mattix, DVM
Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Bozeman, Montana

Program Objectives:

1. To understand the complexity and vulnerability of our food production and distribution system.
2. Understand the general categories of agents which might be used to disrupt the system.
3. Understand the numerous factors affecting plant and animal health.
4. Understand the role of animal health in National Security.
5. Understand the social, economic, and political effects of a large-scale agricultural disaster.

Conference Details:

Target Audience: Public health professionals and their partners with whom they will need to communicate in a public health emergency.

CEUs: No CEUs awarded for this program.

Registration: www.adph.org/alphn

Cost: No cost to view.

Satellite Technical Information: This program will be a live satellite broadcast on both Ku and C bands. You will need a satellite downlink system to view this program.

Webcast Information: This program will be available as an on-demand webcast approximately two days after the live satellite broadcast. To access this webcast, www.adph.org/alphn (click On-Demand Webcasts).

Conference Materials: Posted on website approximately one week before the program.

Questions: alphn@adph.state.al.us or 334-206-5618.

If you have questions that you want addressed during the conference, you may fax or email those questions and a response will be given during the program.
Email: alphn@adph.state.al.us
Fax: 334-206-5640

The South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness is a partnership of the state health departments in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi and the Schools of Public Health at UAB, UAMS and Tulane University with funding from the CDC.

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